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AUTHOR	Nunez, Ralph da Costa
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ABSTRACT

This book explores in six chapters the issues behind family homelessness in America and presents some solutions to this increasing problem. Chapter 1 analyzes some of the causes for homelessness with a look at the 1980s, cuts in social programs, the insufficient help provided by federal authorities, and efforts of local initiatives. In chapter 2 a model program, the Residential Educational Training (RET) program, is presented as a response to the inadequate remedy traditional shelters have offered. Chapter 3 focuses on ways to break the cycle of homelessness by educating the children and discusses both the effects of homelessness on education and ways to initiate different programs in early childhood education, accelerated education, and other strategies. Chapter 4 continues this emphasis on education by supplying ways that parents can increase their education through adult education centers, employment training, and other methods. Keeping families together and healthy with prevention programs is the focus of chapter 5; preventative health care, crisis nursery programs, and other innovative approaches are examined. The final chapter addresses ways to help families find a permanent home. Appendices elaborate study methodologies, homeless family rights litigation in New York City, and RET center funding mechanisms. (Contains an index.) (RJM)

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